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LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 June 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahhaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, documenting statements made by senior Kuwaiti officials that threaten the sovereignty and security of Iraq and are clearly in violation of the Security Council resolutions expressing concern for the stability of the region and relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 28 June 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing with reference to our letter dated 15 June 1998 addressed to you (S/1998/513, annex) concerning the outcome of the discussions that took place in the Security Council on the evening of 11 June 1998, under the item "Other matters", when the subject was raised of the identical Kuwaiti letters dated 8 June 1998 addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/484, annex) quoting statements improperly attributed to Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait.

Over and above the remarks made in our aforesaid letter, I should like to inform you and the members of the Council of a number of documented official statements made by senior Kuwaiti officials that have actually threatened the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

The Council, and two of its members in particular, namely the United States and the United Kingdom, met these grievous Kuwaiti statements with absolute silence. This strengthens our conviction, as it does that of all in the Council and in the world at large who are fair-minded, of the significance of the double standards that are employed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom and particularly of their woeful conduct within the Council.

Hundreds of the statements and pronouncements that have been made by senior Kuwaiti officials since the adoption of the relevant Security Council resolutions have been in clear violation of those resolutions expressing concern for the stability of the region and relations between Iraq and Kuwait. Why, then, did the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States not comment on these Kuwaiti statements, even if only raised under the item "Other matters"?

The statements and pronouncements made by Kuwaiti officials explicitly acknowledge action taken to replace the political regime in Iraq and the utilization of Kuwaiti funds for this purpose. These statements and pronouncements also unequivocally acknowledge assistance given to outlaw groups and individuals and action taken with them against the security and integrity of Iraq.

I am transmitting to you herewith a presentation showing a number of the aforesaid statements by senior Kuwaiti officials, all of them tantamount to open interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and posing a threat to Iraq's sovereignty, security and stability and to security in the region.

I cannot here omit reference to the letter dated 24 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to you (S/1998/586). This letter provides us with an additional example that helps reveal the intentions of the Kuwaiti Government and its insistence on misrepresenting the facts despite Iraq's official assertion that the statements

in question were incorrectly attributed to Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, and Iraq's further assertion that the statements made by Mr. Ramadan do not in any sense whatever mean that Iraq is evading its obligations under Security Council resolution 833 (1993). Kuwait's insistence on misrepresenting this matter, including its resort to sound recordings in a game that has become familiar, only exposes the preconceived designs that Kuwaiti officials entertain for Iraq in addition to the grievous schemes and actions against Iraq that are illustrated by the examples of statements made by Kuwaiti officials that I am transmitting to you and to the members of the Security Council together with this letter.

As we inform you of these Kuwaiti statements and pronouncements, we remind you of the purposes and principles of the United Nations and, in particular, of Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that:

> "The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members."

Accordingly, we urge the Security Council to alert Kuwaiti leaders to the consequences of their constant insistence on making statements and pronouncements hostile to Iraq and to warn them to desist from the actions in which they engage in order to threaten Iraq's security and integrity. We expect the Council to express its concern at such statements and pronouncements and at such Kuwaiti official actions.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its enclosure to the attention of the members of the Security Council and if you would have them circulated as a Council document.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

Examples of hostile statements and pronouncements concerning Iraq made by senior Kuwaiti officials

1. Author: Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister for Foreign Affairs

   Date: 3 February 1993

   Source: Agence France-Presse, Abu Dhabi

   Purport: The Minister again asserted that his country would only establish relations with Iraq after the regime in that country was overthrown.

2. Action: Meeting with Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait

   Date: 31 January 1995

   Source: Al-Sharq al-Awsat, London/Insat al-Kuwayt

   Purport: The Amir and Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received the President of the so-called Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, for the coordination of action to overthrow of the regime of the Iraqi President.

3. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

   Date: 28 October 1995

   Source: Agence France-Presse, Riyadh

   Purport: The Minister urged the so-called opposition to overcome its present fragmentation and to act to overthrow the political regime in Baghdad. It was his wish for the opposition that the day would come when it could replace the regime in Iraq, and he affirmed that his country supported the so-called opposition.

4. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

   Date: 29 October 1995

   Source: Agence France-Presse, Dubai

   Purport: Kuwait rejected the call from the United Arab Emirates, supported by Qatar, for a reconciliation with Iraq mediated by the League of Arab States. The Minister went on to say that the issue was not that of an inter-Arab reconciliation, but the problem lay in the existence of the Iraqi regime. He again stressed that the terms of a reconciliation with the other Arab States would

require them to condemn the Iraqi regime and to participate in isolating it.

5. Author: Ali Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, Minister of the Interior

Date: 21 January 1996

Source: Al-Sharq al-Awsat, London

Purport: The Minister stated that his country was cooperating with the Iraqi opposition because Kuwait and the so-called Iraqi opposition had a common denominator, namely the desire to replace the political regime in Iraq.

6. Action: Visit to Kuwait by the traitor al-Hakim

Date: 10 February 1996

Source: Agence France-Presse from the Kuwait News Agency on 10 February 1996

Purport: The Minister for Foreign Affairs received the President of the so-called Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, to review the latest developments on the Iraqi scene and to coordinate action with a view to overthrowing the regime of the Iraqi President.

7. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

Date: 23 February 1996

Source: Al-Jumhuriyah, Cairo

Purport: The Minister commented on statements made by United States Secretary of Defense William Perry to the effect that the United States would endeavour, together with the States of the region, to put an end to the regime in Iraq.

8. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

Date: 14 September 1996

Source: Reuters, Kuwait

Purport: In a statement, the Minister stressed the need to overthrow President Saddam Hussein. He said that "We wish to see an end to this regime soon, and it will be necessary to take certain measures to bring that end about" in consultation with Kuwait's allies.

9. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

Date: 16 September 1996

Source: Reuters, Kuwait

Purport: The Minister affirmed that his country would have no hesitation in agreeing to the deployment of United States forces and that his country's resolve to stand together with its allies against the Iraqi President was beyond any doubt. He stressed that stability in the region was not possible as long as Saddam remained in power.

10. Author: Muhammad Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait in Washington

Date: 12 May 1997

Source: Reuters, Kuwait

Purport: The ambassador said that the United States was endeavouring to overthrow the present Iraqi regime by tightening the stranglehold on the Iraqi leader through the United States Congress, which had approved a bill urging the White House to bring President Saddam Hussein to trial. He considered this an important element in the mechanism that was being put in place to overthrow the Iraqi regime.

11. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

Date: 30 August 1997

Source: Al-Hayat

Purport: In an interview with Lebanese television, the Minister stated: "The continued presence of Saddam Hussein will keep the Gulf under threat, and he must be eliminated. All the Gulf States must be able to feel at ease without the viper in Baghdad."

12. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

Date: 16 December 1997

Source: Al-Hayat

Purport: The Minister stated that "the treasury of the State of Kuwait is open for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime", that "all the probabilities and conjectures are that the regime in Iraq will be replaced" and that "Kuwait is interested in replacing the regime in Iraq, and what concerns the Kuwaiti Government is that the present Iraqi regime might remain in place". In reply to another question, the Minister stated: "Kuwait welcomes any grouping that weakens the present regime in Baghdad, whether a government

in exile or otherwise. The Iraqi opposition gets every cooperation from us, and we want to succeed in finding some kind of acceptable regime." Concerning a possible United States military strike against Iraq, the Minister said: "We cannot reject a strike on Iraq."

13. Author: Su'ud Nasir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information

Date: 19 December 1997

Source: Al-Ahram al-Arabi

Purport: The Minister affirmed his country's conviction that it was useless to deal with the Iraqi regime, repeating that "the Kuwaiti treasury is open for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime" and saying that Kuwait looked forward to a new regime in Iraq.

14. Action: The Amir, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait meet with Baqir al-Hakim.

Date: 12 and 13 January 1998

Source: Agence France-Presse/Al-Hayat

Purport: The Amir and the two Ministers met with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, President of the so-called Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, for the purpose of coordinating action for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime.